

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELECTION IN EL SALVADOR

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern with the resurgence of the Leninist-Marxist FMLN in El Salvador. The FMLN is controversial in part because of its support for organizations such as the FARC, and for the public participation by some of its leaders in a pro-Al Qaeda rally where the U.S. flag was burned immediately after September 11, 2001. The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador was forced to condemn the written public statements related to the September 11 attacks that were issued by the FMLN and hostile toward the United States.

The leader of the FMLN has recently reiterated his commitment to communism. The FMLN continues to participate actively in international gatherings with violent and radical anti-U.S. organizations. Recent purges in the FMLN have reportedly left the party under the almost monolithic control of its most hard-line communist leaders.

Should the FMLN come to power in the upcoming elections, good bilateral relations between our two countries could be jeopardized. El Salvador's ARENA government provides military and intelligence cooperation, and is part of the coalition in the war on terror. The Salvadoran Government is also an active promoter of the free trade agreement with the United States.

To date, the United States Government has granted Temporary Protective Status to nearly 300,000 Salvadorans who are now living and working in the United States—workers who send home some \$2 billion annually in remittances. If the FMLN controls the government of El Salvador following the presidential elections scheduled for March 2004, it could mean a radical change in United States policy as it pertains to the essentially free-flow of remittances from Salvadorans living in the United States to El Salvador.

Under an FMLN Presidency, the United States government would have no reliable counterpart to satisfy legitimate national security concerns, especially those regarding the threat posed by the FMLN's support of groups like the FARC. Therefore, if the FMLN takes control of the government in El Salvador, it may be necessary for the United States authorities to examine closely and possibly apply special controls to the flow of \$2 billion in remittances from the United States to El Salvador—unfortunately to the detriment of many people living in El Salvador.

CONGRATULATING EDDIE MITCHELL ON RECEIPT OF THE CIBA SPECIALTY CHEMICALS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Eddie Mitchell, principal of Baldwin County High School in Bay Minette, AL, on the occasion of his being honored with the Ciba Specialty Chemicals Exemplary High School Principal Award. As one of 25 winners nationwide receiving this year's award, Mr. Mitchell becomes the first educator from Baldwin County and from the State of Alabama to have ever been afforded this honor.

The award is presented in conjunction with the National Science Teachers Association to educators for their work in promoting science education within their schools. During his tenure as principal of Baldwin County High School, and previously as principal of Daphne Middle School, Mr. Mitchell has worked tirelessly in the area of wetlands restoration and in establishing an outdoor science classroom facility at his school. His work at these schools has been instrumental in encouraging an interest in science education among students and in promoting an awareness of the preservation of the environment in which they live.

Mr. Speaker, we in this body have for many years strongly advocated the idea of promoting a strong educational system for students nationwide and providing them with every opportunity to excel in the numerous academic fields comprising their education. Teachers and school administrators are the most important people in the process of providing a quality education, and the success students achieve is a direct result of the interest and involvement of these men and women. Mr. Eddie Mitchell personifies the excellent caliber of individuals who have devoted their lives to educating our nation's young people, and he is to be highly commended for his many years of dedication to providing a quality education to these students.

Along with his many friends and colleagues, not only in Baldwin County but throughout the south Alabama educational community, I wish to extend to Mr. Eddie Mitchell my warmest congratulations on receiving the Ciba Specialty Chemicals Exemplary High School Principal Award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today in support of H.J. Res 87, honoring the life and legacy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and recognizing his contributions. I am honored that I can be here to reflect upon and recognize the contributions President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made during his remarkable lifetime.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt entered public service through politics. He was elected to the New York Senate in 1910 and he was the Democratic nominee for Vice President in 1920. In the summer of 1921, at the age of 39, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was stricken with polio. Demonstrating indomitable courage, he fought to regain the use of his legs. In spite of these obstacles, Roosevelt became Governor of New York in 1928. In November 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President of the United States, the first of four terms.

Assuming the Presidency at the depth of the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt helped the American people regain faith in themselves and their government. He brought hope and inspired millions with his famous saying, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

By March of 1924, there were 13,000,000 unemployed, and almost every bank was closed. In his first 100 days, he initiated revolutionary programs and reforms to bring recovery to business and agriculture, relief to the unemployed and to those in danger of losing farms and homes.

President Roosevelt was the first President to successfully merge government and private enterprise to form a partnership that furthered both domestic and international interests. As a result of the unique partnership, American jobs were created at a time when they were so desperately in need and the United States amassed 300,000 planes, 100,000 tanks, 2 million trucks, and 87,000 warships to the Allied cause, out producing the Allied and Axis forces combined.

Roosevelt had pledged the United States to the "good neighbor" policy, transforming the Monroe Doctrine from a unilateral American manifesto into arrangements for mutual action against aggressors. He also sought to keep the United States out of the war in Europe, yet at the same time to strengthen and provide support to nations threatened or attacked. When England came under siege in 1940, he began to send Great Britain all possible aid short of actual military involvement.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Roosevelt understood that the war was escalating out of control, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

United States involvement was crucial. Franklin Roosevelt felt that future peace of the world would depend upon relations between the United States and Russia, he devoted much thought to the planning of a United Nations, in which, he hoped, international difficulties could be settled.

As the war drew to a close, Roosevelt's health deteriorated, and on April 12, 1945, he died of a cerebral hemorrhage. President Franklin Roosevelt led our country with integrity and nobility. We would be a different Nation today if it was not for his courage and leadership through difficult times. I am honored to be here today to reflect on his legacy.

TRIBUTE AND HONOR THE LIFE
OF ELMER ARNOLD BRAZELTON

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to, and honor the life of, Elmer Arnold Brazelton of Paris, Illinois. When he died on November 6th of 2003, Elmer left behind his lovely wife Patricia, four children, and eight grandchildren. Elmer was one of those people who was a joy to be around and his optimism and love of life were contagious to all of those close to him. His life, Mr. Speaker, was an excellent example of love for country and family. Elmer joined the National Guard in 1947, a full 2 years before graduating from Brocton High School in 1949. He attended both Light and Heavy Weapons Schools at Ft. Benning, Georgia and later joined up with the California Guard and was sent to Korea where he received two Bronze Stars. He left the service in 1953 and came home to his beloved Edgar County, Illinois. Over the next five decades, Elmer would raise a family, farm, manage a filling station in Hume, drive a school bus for the Urbana school district, and retire from the University of Illinois in 1993 after 33 years of dedicated service; 23 of those years spent as a Custodial Foreman. Elmer was a 50-year member of the Paris American Legion Post #211. He was also a valued member of the Edgar County Historical & Genealogical Society, the Edgar County Farm Bureau, the State Line Christian Church and the Weber St. Church of Christ to name a few of the many organizations that were important to him. I will never forget Elmer, his personality, nor his dedication to his family and his service to his community. I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the life of Elmer Brazelton who was a good and decent patriot; truly, one of the good guys.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the week of March 7th, I was excused from the business of the House, however, if I were present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 57, "aye"; No. 56,

"aye"; No. 55, "aye"; No. 54, "aye"; No. 53, "no"; No. 52, "no"; No. 51, "no"; No. 50, "no"; No. 49, "no"; No. 48, "no"; No. 47, "aye"; No. 46, "aye"; No. 45, "aye"; No. 44, "aye"; No. 43, "aye"; and No. 42, "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I request that these votes be reflected in the appropriate place of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH AND STOP VIOLENCE
WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here this week, along with many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, for National Women's History Month and Stop Violence Week. This year's theme is Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility. Last week was Stop Violence week, coordinated between Lifetime Television and the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. This week brought to my attention that in light of all these celebrations of how far women have come over the decades, it would be naive for us to stand here and believe that we have eradicated gender based violence. Statistics keep coming in, showing that the problem is widespread for both sexual and domestic violence, and victims fear reporting the crimes to proper authorities.

In my State of Texas, nearly 2 million adult Texans, almost 13 percent of the State population, have been sexually assaulted.

In Texas, every 2 minutes, someone is sexually assaulted and two women are killed each week by their intimate partner.

Approximately 31 percent of sexual assault victims reported that a family member also has been sexually assaulted. We must raise awareness about how we as society can take care of the victims of such crimes. An estimate of 82 percent of rapes and sexual assaults go unreported because of shame, fear, hurt and anger. Nearly 80 percent of those raped know the person who raped them.

Family and friends not only help their loved one deal with the effects of an assault, and must manage their own feelings about the victimization of someone they care about. The impact of such a traumatic experience is severe. Thirty percent of rape victims contemplate suicide, and 13 percent attempt to take their own life.

I have worked with formidable organizations such as Texans Against Sexual Assault, who works to bring voices to women who have been victims of sexual crimes, and helping them along an emotional recovery. Also, the Texas Council on Family Violence, which has connected more than 15,000 Texas victims of domestic violence with emergency shelter and protection.

I am proud to be here, and grateful to these organizations and their hard work. But this does not start here. Sexual assault and violence affects all racial and ethnic groups. These victims are ourselves, our families, neighbors and coworkers. Together we must take a stand and work together for women's rights. We must work on building a brighter future, and make gender based violence a thing

of the past. One week or month is not enough to do it all, but it's a beginning. Marian Wright Edelman, the founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund said, "Justice is not cheap. Justice is not quick. It is not ever finally achieved."

As a Congress, we come from different places and with diverging viewpoints. I want to thank all my colleagues, male and female, from all ends of the political spectrum who are taking measures to Stop the Violence. Working together, we can begin to make change.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Cesar Chavez, who forged a legacy of service, conviction, and principled leadership that helped define a new decade of reform. Cesar began working early in life as a migrant farm worker during the Great Depression. He soon became involved with the Community Service Organization, a self-help group for Mexican-Americans, which sparked his desire to establish an organization solely dedicated to farm workers. His dream became a reality in 1962 when the National Farm Workers Association was established, and from that point on he dedicated the next 31 years of his life to pursuing social justice. He helped establish a 5-year strike by California grape pickers, as well as boycotts of grapes and lettuce that grew nationwide attention. Mr. Chavez will always be remembered and admired for achieving powerful change through this use of nonviolent activism. In honor of his many contributions to society he received the highest civilian awards from the United States and Mexico, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Aguila Azteca. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that Mr. Cesar Chavez will be honored and remembered for his lifelong contribution to not only the Hispanic community, but to all of humanity.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES H.
MILLER, SR., ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT AS CHIEF
OF POLICE OF THE FOLEY, ALA-
BAMA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to James H. Miller, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement from the position of chief of police of the Foley, Alabama, Police Department. For the past 31 years, Chief Miller has served the families of Foley with a great deal of enthusiasm and concern for their well-being and for the well-being of the entire community. In the process of performing his professional duties, he has also gained the respect and admiration of everyone in south Baldwin County.

Following his graduation from the Alabama Police Academy in February 1973, Chief Miller joined the Foley Police Department and, as a

result of his hard work and dedication, became the first African-American officer to be promoted to chief of that department. His efforts in law enforcement and the protection of his community resulted in his receiving numerous awards during his professional career, including the keys to the cities of Baltimore, Maryland, and Tuskegee, Alabama. Additionally, Chief Miller was awarded a citation by Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer in 1994.

In addition to his work in the field of law enforcement, Chief Miller has been active as a minister for numerous congregations in Alabama and Florida. He received his Bachelor of Theology Degree from Easonian Baptist Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1982, and his Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Tennessee School of Religion in 1996. During his ministerial career, he has served the congregations of Fannie Baptist Church in Alabama and the First Baptist Church of Warrington, Florida.

Finally, Chief Miller has been extremely active in the life of the Foley community, and has for many years been a member of the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Foley Boys and Girls Club, the Optimist Club, the Baldwin County Extension Advisory Board, and the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police. He has also served as Chaplain for the Southwest Alabama Police Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Chief James H. Miller, Sr., for his tremendous contributions to the citizens of Foley and of Baldwin County. The experience and zeal he has brought to his job and the concern and compassion he has displayed for everyone in the city are unquestioned and unparalleled. He has indeed been a genuine asset to the police department and to the thousands of men, women, and children he has assisted over the past three decades.

Make no mistake, the chief's talents and experience in the department will be sorely missed, but I am confident he will continue to remain actively involved in the life of the Foley community for many years to come. Along with his many friends and colleagues throughout Alabama, I wish to extend to Chief Miller and his family—his wife Mary Jane; his children, James, Jr., Otis, Daron, Ronald, D.J., and Nicole; and his 27 grandchildren—much health and happiness in the years ahead.

HEALTH INFORMATION INDEPENDENCE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Health Information Independence Act. This act restores the right of consumers to purchase the dietary supplements of their choice and receive accurate information about the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements. The Health Information Independence Act restricts the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) power to impede consumers' access to truthful claims regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements to those cases where the FDA has evidence that a product poses a threat to safety and well-

being or that a product does not have a disclaimer informing consumers that the claims are not FDA-approved.

Claims that could threaten public safety, or that are marketed without a disclaimer, would have to be reviewed by an independent review board, comprised of independent scientific experts randomly chosen by the FDA. However, anyone who is, or has ever been, on the FDA's payroll is disqualified from serving on the board. The FDA is forbidden from exercising any influence over the review board. If the board recommends approval of a health claim, then the FDA must approve the claim.

The board also must consider whether any claims can be rendered nonmisleading by adopting a disclaimer, before rejecting a claim out of hand. For example, if the board finds that the scientific evidence does not conclusively support a claim, but the claim could be rendered nonmisleading if accompanied with a disclaimer, then the board must approve the claim provided the claim is always accompanied by an appropriate disclaimer. The disclaimer would be a simple statement to the effect that "scientific studies on these claims are inconclusive" and/or "these claims are not approved by the FDA." Thus, the bill tilts the balance of federal law in favor of allowing consumers access to information regarding the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements, which is proper in a free society.

The procedures established by the Health Information Independence Act are a fair and balanced way to ensure consumers have access to truthful information about dietary supplements. Over the past decade, the American people have made it clear they do not want the Federal Government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA continues to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict such access.

In 1994, Congress responded to the American people's desire for greater access to information about the benefits of dietary supplements by passing the Dietary Supplements and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA), that liberalized rules regarding the regulation of dietary supplements. Congressional offices received a record number of comments in favor of DSHEA.

Despite DSHEA, FDA officials continued to attempt to enforce regulations aimed at keeping the American public in the dark about the benefits of dietary supplements. Finally, in the case of *Pearson v. Shalala*, 154 F.3d 650 (DC Cir. 1999), reh'g denied en banc, 172 F.3d 72 (DC Cir. 1999), the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit Court reaffirmed consumers' First Amendment right to learn about dietary supplements without unnecessary interference from the FDA. The *Pearson* decision anticipated my legislation by suggesting the FDA adopt disclaimers in order to render some health claims non-misleading.

In the years since the *Pearson* decision, Members of Congress have had to continually intervene with the FDA to ensure it followed the court order. The FDA continues to deny consumers access to truthful health information. Clearly, the FDA is determined to continue to (as the *Pearson* court pointed out) act as though liberalizing regulations regarding health claims is the equivalent of "asking consumers to buy something while hypnotized and therefore they are bound to be misled."

The FDA's "grocery store censorship" not only violates consumers' first amendment

rights, but, by preventing consumers from learning about the benefits of foods and dietary supplements, the FDA's policies are preventing consumers from taking easy steps to improve their own health!

If Congress is serious about respecting first amendment rights, and the people's right to act to improve their own health, we must remove the FDA's authority to censor nonmisleading health claims, and claims that can be rendered nonmisleading by the simple device of adopting a disclaimer.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to help establish an objective process that respects consumers' first amendment rights to nonmisleading information regarding the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements by co-sponsoring the Health Information Independence Act.

HONORING BENITO JUAREZ

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Benito Juarez, an influential Mexican hero who made an amazing impact during his lifetime. The son of Native American parents and the first president of Native American descent, Don Juarez worked hard to educate himself in law and to later become one of Mexico's greatest leaders. He established a new democratic government after the fall of Mexican General Antonio de Santa Anna, and he later helped to restore this government after the French military invasion led by Austria's Archduke Maximilian.

As a national hero and President of Mexico, Benito Juarez left a legacy of liberal reforms that helped establish Mexico as a more democratic place to live. His democratic ideals were further embodied in the Constitution of 1857 which gave the Mexican people their basic rights of free speech and press. Due to significant contributions to Mexico through his service in state and national legislature and as a judge, a governor, and ultimately a president, Benito Juarez is regarded as one of the great heroes in Mexican history.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LUIS A. Ferré

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and a great public servant. In his 96 years, Luis A. Ferré—successful businessman, art patron, and former Governor of Puerto Rico—has had a unique opportunity to witness, and influence, a period of dramatic change on his native island.

Ferré was born in Ponce in 1904, "soon after the transition of Puerto Rico from Spanish to American control. It was a time of great promise, and many Puerto Ricans believed they would soon enjoy the rights which they had been denied for so long. Ferré's father, a

Cuban immigrant and the founder of the Puer-to Rico Iron Works, described to his young son how, in 1898, the people of Ponce had welcomed U.S. troops landing on the island.

The arrival of American forces did not, however, bring the immediate advantages that some had predicted. Instead, the process of political, economic, and cultural growth in Puerto Rico which began in 1898 has lasted all of Luis Ferré's life.

In 1917, when Ferré was 13 years old, the Puerto Rican people were granted U.S. citizenship. "Of course I can't remember it distinctly," he said 75 years later, "but ever since, I've been very proud of that day. I feel it is a great privilege and a great honor to be a citizen of the greatest republic that we've had in the history of the world."

Ferré's respect for the United States dates back to his years as a university student in Cambridge, Massachusetts. That period away from home was formative, both professionally and politically. He recalled much later: "I was a part of the old Hispanic community, but then I went to the mainland to study, in Boston at M.I.T., and I became completely sold on the importance of having Puerto Rico become a State of the Union, on an equal basis with the rest of the States."

Ferré returned to Puerto Rico with a degree in engineering and a firm belief in Statehood. He built his father's business into a hugely successful industrial enterprise, becoming a millionaire in the process. As his fortune grew, so did the movement among Puerto Ricans to govern themselves.

Luis Ferré entered politics at a propitious time in the island's history. In 1948, Puerto Ricans elected a governor for the first time, choosing Luis Muñoz Marín. In 1952 the year before commonwealth status and internal self-government, Luis Ferré was elected to the Puerto Rican House of Representatives. From this position, he advocated commonwealth as a stepping stone to his ultimate goal of Statehood for Puerto Rico.

Ferré saw the chance to further the cause in 1967, the year of the first political status plebiscite on the island. While commonwealth was the winning option, Ferré utilized the plebiscite to mobilize Statehood forces and establish a new political entity, the New Progressive Party (NPP).

Ferré ran for Governor of Puerto Rico as the NPP candidate in 1968, and he won a close race. His victory marked the end of 25 years of political dominance by Muñoz Marín's Popular Democratic Party (PDP), and the beginning of a new era in which the NPP and PDP would vie for the support of the Puerto Rican people.

Ferré was Governor for one term, from 1969 to 1973. However, his importance stems not so much from what he achieved in those four years, as from the precedent that he set.

After him came more Statehooders like Carlos Romero Barcelo, Hernán Padilla, and Pedro Rosselló. First under Ferré's guidance, then under his inspiration, the New Progressive Party with its statehood agenda has become a legitimate and powerful political force. As he noted in 1997, "When I became Governor of Puerto Rico, as a Statehood governor, we had 400,000 votes. Today, we won the election in 1996 with 1,600,000 votes."

Along with his political astuteness and business savvy, Ferré was also a great lover and supporter of the arts. "Art is something that

enriches all nations," Ferré said in 1997. "It is very important to teach [art to] children when they're young because it opens up their minds and imagination and keeps them alive. In accordance with this philosophy, he founded the Museo de Arte de Ponce in 1965. The museum features artwork from medieval times to the present, focusing on the relevance of the European in Puerto Rico. Housed in an impressive, modern building, it is a major cultural attraction in Ferré's home city.

Over the past century, Puerto Rico has grown in freedom, wealth, and influence. Similarly, Luis Ferré has attained the honored positions of elder statesman and philanthropist. He is one of four Puerto Ricans to have received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. (Muñoz Marín, Antonia Pantoja, and Gov. Ferré's sister, Isolina, are the other three.) Reflecting on this distinction, he said, "I honestly believe that this was a recognition by the people of the United States to the people of Puerto Rico. After all, the people of Puerto Rico for the last eighty years [since attaining citizenship] have been contributing, in many ways, to the enrichment and the growth of our country."

TRIBUTE TO LESTER L. GOLDSTEIN

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to one of Miami-Dade County's leaders, the late Lester L. Goldstein, who passed away on March 16, 2004. His passing has cast a veil of deep sadness over our community, and I would like to extend my condolences to his widow, Bella, his children, Jeff and Tina, and his grandchildren, Jason and Ian.

Lester Goldstein was a partner in the Bilzen, Sumberg, Baena Price & Alexrod law firm in Miami, but he was so much more. He was an extraordinary man of service, a quiet but tireless and effective leader who felt at ease with people throughout our diverse community, and he devoted his life to improving their lives by his service and his example.

He served as the chairperson of the Greater Miami Service corps, the founder of the Alzheimer Care Committee of Douglas Gardens, a founder of the Miami Jewish Home and Hospital for the Aged, and a founder of the Mt. Sinai Medical Center. These are but a few of the great initiatives his humanitarian spirit willed to come to fruition, and these programs now serve to improve the lives and lessen the burdens of countless residents of our community.

He spearheaded civic fund-raising efforts to help the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the Zoological Society of Florida, and he was a member of the American Arbitration Association, the Builders Association of South Florida, and local infrastructure and water management advisory groups.

As a highly competent professional in real estate development, zoning and land use, administrative law and environmental compliance, he conscientiously advocated protection of our environment. His counsel was sought in matters ranging from developments of regional impact to the rezoning of local projects, includ-

ing coordination of efforts among community groups, government agencies, scientists and environmental regulators. Our community feels the loss of a truly decent and caring man who made it his personal business to advocate for the well-being of our community.

The numerous tributes and accolades with which government officials and various organizations have honored him during his lifetime are testimony to the utmost gratitude and respect he enjoyed from a grateful community. He truly personified the resilience and compassion of a people servant whose life exemplified what Martin Luther King, Jr. said that "... everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

This is the legacy Mr. Lester L. Goldstein bequeathed to us. I am privileged to have been his friend, for his genuine advocacy on behalf of the less fortunate evoked a caring heart and a compassionate humanity.

HONORING FRANCES LYLE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frances Lyle. Mrs. Lyle, who recently celebrated her 82nd birthday, was nominated by her fellow employees at the Henry County Library in Clinton, Missouri, for the Missouri Older Worker Award. She subsequently received the regional State award.

As an employee of the Henry County Library for the past 5 years, Mrs. Lyle has proven to be an asset and a joy to work with. She has shown her ability to relate to patrons of all ages. In an effort to serve the senior citizens in the community, she writes book reviews for the local paper, focusing on older books in the library's collection. She serves as an invaluable resource for older patrons who have read all of the books by their favorite authors. She has also become a favorite of many of the younger patrons, telling stories to the teenagers who pass through the doors.

Mrs. Lyle has taken it upon herself to organize and manage the annual library book sale. This is a major fund-raising event for the library, with all proceeds going to children's programming. Mrs. Lyle's efforts have been successful enough to bring in a nationally recognized author or storyteller to visit with the local children each of the past 3 years.

In addition to her work in the library, Mrs. Lyle is also an active member of her church. She is very involved in missionary projects, collecting books and supplies for children overseas. She also collects books for the church's annual gift drive, a project that ensures needy children in the area a special Christmas. In addition, she lends her beautiful singing voice to the church choir.

Mr. Speaker, Frances Lyle's friends and colleagues believe she is worthy of recognition, and I agree. She serves as an example, not just of the value that older Americans have to our communities but for all of us who could do so much more for our neighbors and those in need. I am sure the other Members of the House will join me in thanking her for all that she does.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF NISSAN'S EMIL HASSAN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding automotive career of Emil Hassan, the senior vice president of North American manufacturing, purchasing, quality and logistics at Nissan North America, Inc. Emil is retiring from Nissan on April 1 after 35 years in the automotive industry.

Emil has been credited with much of the automaker's success and profitability. He began his career with Nissan when the company built its auto manufacturing facility in Smyrna, Tennessee, in 1981. The Smyrna plant, which is located in my home county, is the largest U.S. automotive production plant under one roof and has produced more than 5 million automobiles to date. It has ranked for 9 consecutive years as the most efficient auto assembly plant in North America, according to the highly regarded annual Harbour Report.

And Emil has been an active civic leader in the hometown, as well. He is chairman of the Business/Education Partnership of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County and is a member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. In fact, he received the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award in 1996 for outstanding volunteer work in his home county. He has also been a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

I congratulate Emil for his remarkable career in the automotive industry and for all he has done to help enhance the quality of life in Rutherford County and Middle Tennessee. And I wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on March 16, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 58, 59, and 60.

RECOGNIZING LAREDO DAY IN WASHINGTON

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize today, March 17, 2004, as Laredo Day in Washington. A distinguished delegation from Laredo is in our Nation's Capital this week to meet with leaders and decision-makers in Congress and executive branch. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming them.

Settled in 1775 by Spaniards, the first Texas cattle drives transformed Laredo from a settle-

ment of three families into a principal stop on the lower Camino Real, the Spanish royal highway.

Laredo became the first official port of entry on the United States-Mexico border in 1851. Today, Laredo handles more trade traffic than ports found in Southern California, New Mexico, Arizona and West Texas combined. As the fastest growing city east of the Rocky Mountains and the second fastest growing city in Texas, Laredo has become a vibrant and booming economic hub on the United States-Mexico border.

Much like it shares goods across the border, Laredo's culture melds both American and Mexican traditions. A prime example of this cultural fusion is Laredo's famed Washington's Birthday Celebration. The event includes over 34 events, lasts 17 days and brings together Americans and Mexicans alike. One event, the International Bridge Ceremony, takes place on the Lincoln-Juarez bridge and includes the meeting of officials, dignitaries, and children from both sides of the border. The groups share an embrace signifying the friendship and cooperation shared between the two nations. I was privileged to participate in this event earlier this year.

Helping to foster this camaraderie is the mayor of Laredo, the Honorable Betty Flores. Elected in 1998, Mayor Flores is the first female mayor to serve Laredo. She has worked diligently to improve the quality of life for all citizens of Laredo by tirelessly promoting her city without compromising the dignity of those she serves. Among the projects she has initiated are the Colonias Improvement Project, the inauguration of the Laredo Entertainment Center, and the opening of the World Trade Bridge. Mayor Flores' leadership on the state, local and national levels has brought prestige to her city.

Laredo's importance as a trade zone and cultural center is unparalleled, and its future is bright. It is my honor to recognize this city and Laredo Day 2004.

HONORING ONE OF OUR FALLEN HEROES

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I request the honor of distinguishing Sergeant First Class Gregory Hicks. I pay tribute to this exceptional soldier, husband, and father, who tragically died near Fajullah, Iraq on board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Sergeant Hicks was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas. A recipient of the Purple Heart and Army Achievement Medal, among others, Sergeant Hicks had distinguished himself as a man of honor and integrity.

Campbell County and the Fourth Congressional District of Tennessee lost a great individual. It was with great personal joy when I heard the small community of Duff, Tennessee, where Sergeant Hicks was raised, rallied around the family in their time of need.

Accordingly, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to his wife, Melinda, his

children, Chris and Jennifer, his mother and father, Clayton and Flora, and his siblings, Sandra, Stephen and Minnie on their tremendous loss. We honor his memory here today so that they will know that we all share their loss. Sergeant Hicks was a man devoted to his family, his country, and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to pay tribute to the life and memory of First Sergeant Gregory Hicks. Never withholding their services in the face of war, Tennessee's citizens have always been celebrated for their wartime valor. Sergeant Hicks fought to keep his family and country safe and for that we are forever indebted. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Sergeant Hicks. It is with much respect that as a member of Congress I may honor his service.

HONORING JOHN HEMPEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and years of hard work by Mr. John Hempel as he retires after more than thirty years of service to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Hempel was appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as the Director of the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System (VASNHS) in Las Vegas on January 14, 2001. As Director, Mr. Hempel directed the planning, organization, coordination, and control of patient care, administrative, and support operations. He was also responsible for maintaining and improving the healthcare system and VA relationships in the community.

In addition to years of service to the VA, Mr. Hempel also bravely served his country as a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran. He served as a platoon leader and executive officer with A Troop, 1st Armored Cavalry, Americal Division in South Vietnam from 1969-1970.

During his service in the Las Vegas area, Mr. Hempel was the driving force behind significant improvements in the VA health care system. As a long-time supporter of veterans in Nevada, it was a pleasure for me to work with Mr. Hempel serving veterans in Southern Nevada.

I am honored to join with all Nevadans in honoring John Hempel on his many accomplishments and wish him well in his retirement.

ELECTIONS COMING IN PUNJAB OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM FREEDOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, elections have been scheduled in Punjab for May 10. They are part of India's national elections. The Sikhs in Punjab must seize this opportunity. Just changing the faces accomplishes nothing. Replacing one set of oppressors with another is not an exercise in democracy; it is merely proof of the need for independence from the tyranny that is the reality of daily life in Punjab.

The Council of Khalistan recently put out an open letter to the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. They called for Sikhs to use these elections to elect officeholders who are committed to freeing the Sikh homeland, Khalistan.

Mr. Speaker, this is the only way to end the repression that has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, with more than 52,000 being held as political prisoners. Some of the prisoners are army officers who refused to participate in the brutal military attack on the seat of the Sikh religion, the Golden Temple, in 1984. Others are simply those who participated peacefully in the movement to liberate Khalistan.

India claims to be a democratic country. It also claims that there is no support for Khalistan. Why not simply hold a vote on the issue, the democratic way? Instead, this country that loudly proclaims that it is secular and democratic imposes the most brutal repression on the Sikhs and other minorities such as Christians in Nagaland and elsewhere, Muslims in Kas-hmir and throughout the country, Tamils, Dalit "Untouchables," Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris, and others.

I join with the Council of Khalistan in urging the Sikhs and all the minorities suffering under Indian oppression to vote for honest candidates committed to freedom for their people. This is the best thing that they can do to free themselves from this brutal tyranny.

We can help by stopping American aid to India until all people's basic human rights are respected and by declaring our support for a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence. These measures will press India to begin living up to the democratic values that they so loudly proclaim.

I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's message to the Sikh Nation regarding the elections into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2004.

Open Letter to the Sikh Nation

PUNJAB ELECTIONS SET FOR MAY 10 OPPORTUNITY FOR SIKH NATION TO CLAIM FREEDOM
CHOOSE HONEST LEADERSHIP COMMITTED TO
SIKH FREEDOM—DON'T MISS THIS PEACEFUL,
DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY TO LIBERATE
KHALISTAN

DEAR KHALSA JI: WAHEGURU JI KA
KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!

Elections in Punjab have been set for May 10. This is an opportunity for Sikhs to install honest, dedicated leadership. Choose only leaders who are committed to Khalsa Raj. Only when Khalistan is free can Sikhs live in prosperity, security, and dignity. Only when Khalistan is free of Indian occupation can Punjab's farmers get a fair price for their crops. Only when Khalistan is free will our water stop being diverted to nonriparian states. We must do everything that we can to free our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. These elections provide an opportunity to reclaim our freedom democratically and peacefully.

The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Silkhin Ko Deon Patshahi." The Sikh Nation must achieve its independence to fulfill the mandate of the Guru. We always remember it by reciting every morning and evening, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening? I urge Sikhs to unite and take action to liberate our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

Parkash Singh Badal disgraced the Sikh Nation by running the most corrupt govern-

ment in Punjab's history. His government was so corrupt, they even came up with a new term for bribery: "fee for service." If you didn't pay the fee, you didn't get the service. The Badal family was so adept at receiving bribes that Mrs. Badal could tell how much money was in a bag just by picking it up! We are pleased that Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is prosecuting the Badal family for its corruption. Clearly, the Akalis do not merit the Sikh Nation's support.

Badal also broke his campaign promises of 1997. He promised to release all the political prisoners. Yet according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Indian regime admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. They are being held without charge or trial, some of them since 1984! How can a democratic state hold political prisoners? He promised to punish police officials who have committed atrocities against Sikhs since 1984. No such action was ever taken. Where is the punishment of Swaran Singh Ghotna, who murdered Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke? Where is the punishment of the police officers who kidnapped and murdered Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra? He promised to appoint a commission to study the human-rights violations against the Sikhs. Yet when such a commission was formed by concerned Sikhs, he used the power of government to shut it down and deny it a meeting place.

The Congress Party is no better. It is the party that invaded and desecrated the Golden Temple and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab in June 1984 to murder Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs, including General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation? No conscientious Sikh can support the Congress Party. It is the enemy of the Sikh Nation.

Sikhs must speak for, work for, and vote for candidates committed to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. Let us take this opportunity to put people in office who will work for Sikh freedom and will work to give the Sikh Nation a free and fair plebiscite on freedom for Khalistan.

Sarbjit Singh, the son of Sikh martyr Beant Singh, has been given a ticket in a reserved constituency in Bhatinda by the Akali Dal (Amritsar.) He deserves the support of Sikh voters, but Sikhs should not support Simranjit Singh Mann, who changes his colors on Khalistan almost daily. Mann is under the control of the Indian government, as shown by his letter to the Chief Justice of India, which is reprinted in the book Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism, by Professor Gurtej Singh. Mann has been in Parliament for the past few years. What has he done to advance the cause of Sikh freedom? Has he even made a single speech on behalf of freeing our homeland?

We call on distinguished Sikh leaders such as Justice Ajit Singh Bains, General Narinder Singh, Professor Gurdarshan Singh Dhillon, Professor Gurtej Singh, former MP Atinder Pal Singh, and others to run themselves or find candidates who reflect their views. And we call on them to give a ticket to deserving, educated political prisoners. This will help to get the political prisoners freed and will help to put people in Parliament who are committed to Sikh freedom and sovereignty.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." The time to achieve our independence is now. India is not one country. It is a poly-

glot empire thrown together under one roof for the administrative convenience of the British colonialists. It has 18 official languages. History shows that such countries are doomed to fall apart. India will collapse just like the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Soviet Union, and other multinational states such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and published in Inderjit Singh Jaijee's excellent book, *The Politics of Genocide*. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947 and murdered priests, raped nuns, burned churches, and destroyed Christian schools and prayer halls. They expelled missionary Joseph Cooper from the country after militant Hindu nationalists beat him up so badly that he had to be in the hospital for a week. Missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned to death while sleeping in their jeep by a mob of militant Hindus chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Since they were allied with the pro-Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP, they were able to commit this atrocity with impunity. Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while the police were under orders to stand aside and let the massacre occur, a frightening parallel to the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs. A policeman told an Indian newspaper that the Gujarat massacre was planned in advance by the government.

India is a fundamentalist Hindu theocracy, not secular or democratic at all. Remember what Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, told America's National Public Radio in 1997: "The Indian government, they are always boasting that they are democratic, that they are secular. They have nothing to do with a secularism, nothing to do with a democracy. They just kill Sikhs just to please the majority." On December 5, President Bush told me "I am aware of the Sikh and Kashmiri problem."

Soon Kashmir will be free from Indian occupation. Now America is involved in it. As L.K. Advani predicted, "When Kashmir goes, India goes." We agree with him and we urge the Indian government to hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence and to sit down with representatives of the Sikh Nation to negotiate the boundaries of a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Sikhs must use the upcoming elections to elect representatives who will make certain that India does that. Sikhs must claim their birthright by liberating Khalistan. Only by freeing Khalistan will we put an end to this corruption and restore control of Punjab and its assets to the people, to whom it rightfully belongs. A sovereign, independent Khalistan is a must for the survival of the Sikh Nation and will provide an optimal environment for the Sikh Nation to progress to its optimum potential politically, religiously, and economically. Let us take this opportunity to free Khalistan.

Panth Da Sewadar,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

DISTURBING STATEMENTS OUT OF EL SALVADOR

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the United States grants Temporary Protective

Status (TPS) to about 400,000 citizens of El Salvador annually, and helps facilitate their sending about \$2 billion home to their families each year. We do this, in part, because the United States enjoys a positive working relationship with the democratic government there.

Unfortunately, the communist candidate for the Presidency, and his political party, the FMLN, has explicitly stated their support for the communist narco-guerrillas who have been attacking the democratic government of Colombia since 1962. They have also said that upon their election to office they will immediately open full diplomatic relations with communist Cuba, a country recognized by the United States as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Based upon these disturbing statements, should the communist/FMLN candidate assume the Presidency of El Salvador, it may well be necessary for the United States to reconsider our relationship with El Salvador, the continuation of TPS for Salvadoran citizens, and our current support for their sending remittances back home.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the following statement, which I believe provides a concise overview of this matter placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement. I strongly urge my colleagues to read it and keep it firmly in mind as we await the results of the March 21st elections in El Salvador.

STATEMENT ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY
POLICY REGARDING THE FMLN
TPS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

In making immigration decisions, such as the granting or extension of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) or the conversion of TPS to Permanent Resident Status or other considerations that enable foreign nationals to remain in the United States, the U.S. government must put first the national security of the United States.

TPS AND THE PRO-TERRORIST REGIMES

For that reason, the granting of TPS to nationals of a country should be immediately reviewed and, in most cases, terminated, if a pro-terrorist party wins power or enters the government of that country.

THE FMLN AS A PRO-TERRORIST PARTY

The FMLN, a political party in El Salvador, can be considered a pro-terrorist party because of its support for designated terrorist organizations, such as the FARC, and for the public participation by some of its leaders in a pro-Al Qaeda rally where the U.S. flag was burned, this taking place immediately after September 11, 2001. The U.S. Embassy in El Salvador was forced to condemn the written public statements related to the September 11th attacks that were issued by the FMLN and hostile toward the U.S.

The FMLN was created as an armed subversive communist organization that sought the violent overthrow of the Government of El Salvador in order to replace it with a pro-Castro Marxist-Leninist regime. After years of armed aggression and terrorism, the FMLN signed a peace agreement in 1992 that brought the violence to an end and led to the participation of the FMLN in the political process. The leader of the FMLN has reiterated recently his commitment to communism. The FMLN continues to participate actively in international gatherings with violent and radical anti-U.S. groups and terrorist organizations. Recent purges in the FMLN have left the party under the complete control of its most hard-line com-

munist leaders. The FMLN is also known to organize in the United States among the Salvadoran immigrant community.

EXCELLENT CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S.-
EL SALVADOR

It must be emphasized that the United States has superb relations with the current government of El Salvador, led by the party ARENA. This friendship is based on confidence, shared values, mutually beneficial international policies and strong personal relationships. Excellent bi-lateral relations permit a high-level of cooperation on important national security matters. El Salvador provides military and intelligence cooperation and is part of the coalition that has sent armed forces to post-war Iraq. The Salvadoran government is also an active promoter of the free trade agreement with the United States.

TPS BASED ON EXCELLENT STRATEGIC
RELATIONSHIP

In the context of excellent relations and close cooperation, the U.S. government was able to grant and extend TPS for the benefit of nearly 300,000 Salvadorans now living and working in the United States. For similar reasons, the U.S. government has not had special concerns about the source and use of the \$2 billion per year in remittances sent by Salvadorans in the United States to their home country, allowing the free movement of that large sum. The government of El Salvador has shown itself to be a reliable and trustworthy counterpart regarding U.S. national security.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT RADICALLY CHANGES THE
EQUATION

If the FMLN enters the government of El Salvador following the presidential elections scheduled for March 2004, it will mean a radical termination of the conditions that permitted the granting of TPS in the first place. The U.S. government would have no reliable counterpart to satisfy legitimate national security concerns, especially those regarding the threat posed by pro-terrorist groups and the providing of funding for those groups.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUIRE
TERMINATION OF TPS

Therefore, if the FMLN enters the government in El Salvador it will be necessary for the U.S. authorities to consider all available information regarding the ties of the FMLN to violent anti-U.S. groups and designated terrorist groups and, on that basis, proceed toward the immediate termination of TPS for El Salvador.

FMLN IN GOVERNMENT WOULD REQUIRE REVIEW
OF REMITTANCES

In many instances, pro-terrorist groups conduct fundraising in the United States, and special controls and restrictions on the flow of funds have been applied where necessary. Given the pro-terrorist nature of the FMLN and its ties to designated terrorist groups, if the FMLN enters the government in El Salvador, it will be urgent to apply special controls to the flow of remittances from the United States to El Salvador, a sum that is currently \$2 billion per year.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN MILLER, SAN
BERNARDINO COUNTY DIRECTOR
OF PUBLIC WORKS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Ken A. Miller,

a true pioneer in the field of public works and flood control. Mr. Miller is retiring as Director of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works after 33 years of outstanding service to the citizens of San Bernardino County, California, the last 16 as director of the department.

The crowning achievement of Mr. Miller's distinguished career is the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, a \$1 billion project that has also been one of my top priorities for nearly two decades. Completion of the Seven Oaks Dam, the Prado Dam and Reservoir, the Mill Creek Levee and San Timoteo Creek flood control projects will protect millions of lives and billions of dollars worth of property in Southern California. Mr. Miller was the key driver for this project in San Bernardino County during most of his 33 years of public service.

Mr. Miller lent his skills and talent to a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a range of flood control projects that have made San Bernardino County a much safer place, even as the county grew from a quiet suburb to an urban area of nearly 2 million residents.

While protecting San Bernardino County and other Southern California communities from the danger of severe flooding, Mr. Miller was a leading force behind the modernization and safety advancements of transportation routes, from remote desert highways to busy urban Interstates.

Ken Miller has been a Registered Civil Engineer in the State of California since 1973. He joined the San Bernardino County Flood Control District in 1971, following his graduation with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Cal Poly Pomona.

Ken A. Miller has served as President of the County's Management Forum and as president of the City and County Engineers Association at the county and state level. In one of his final assignments for the County of San Bernardino, Mr. Miller served as Acting County Administrative Officer, overseeing the county's workforce of more than 16,000.

Mr. Miller is a native Californian, born in Sanger and a resident of the San Bernardino area since 1951. Mr. Miller and his wife Sandy reside in Yucaipa, California. They have two daughters, Dana and Jennifer, who are currently attending college.

Under Mr. Miller's leadership, the Flood Control District was awarded the 1999-2000 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) "Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project" for the Seven Oaks Dam Project and also was awarded the American Public Works Association (APWA) "2000 Project of the Year Award."

Mr. Speaker, Ken A. Miller leaves an impressive legacy of public service and accomplishment. The transportation and flood control projects he made possible will stand for generations as monuments to a career dedicated to the safety and advancement of Southern California. Please join me in thanking him for his public service, and wishing him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE NEVADA-SI- ERRA PERFORMANCE CLUSTER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication, hard work, and superior productivity achieved by Nevada's postal employees. Recently the Nevada-Sierra Performance Cluster was ranked as the number one cluster in the country in Overnight Delivery.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is comprised of 79 Performance Clusters that are grouped into 9 geographical areas. The Nevada-Sierra Performance Cluster is part of the Pacific area and is serviced by two plants in Nevada, one in Las Vegas and one in Reno. These two plants process and distribute incoming mail to postal facilities throughout Nevada. Currently 96.7 percent of all Overnight Delivery mail in Nevada is delivered on time, ranking the Nevada-Sierra cluster number one in the country. In addition, as measured by the national USPS Breakthrough Productivity Index, the Nevada-Sierra Performance cluster ranks number 2 in the Nation in overall productivity.

These honors pay tribute to the work of the 5,217 career employees working for the United States Postal Service in Nevada. The productivity of Nevada's postal employees benefits all Nevadans who utilize the United States Postal Service. Each day the employees of the Postal Service reach millions of Nevadans through their work delivering the mail.

I am proud to join with all Nevadans in honoring the employees of the USPS Nevada-Sierra Postal Cluster. I wish them continued success and thank them for their fine work.

SIKHS WILL CELEBRATE 400TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THEIR HOLY SCRIPTURE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Sikhs will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the compilation of their holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, this year. As you may know, there are over 500,000 Sikhs in the United States and about 25 million worldwide.

Observances will include a seminar on June 5 at George Washington University and a parade on August 14 here in Washington.

In June 1984, the Indian government launched a military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. Indian forces shot bullets through the Guru Granth Sahib, which was a major desecration and an insult to the Sikh people and the Sikh religion. They took over 100 young Sikh boys outside and shot them at point blank range.

Mr. Speaker, the Golden Temple attack made it clear to the Sikhs that there is no place for them in India's Hindu nationalist theocracy. It is against this background that they

declared their independence on October 7, 1987, calling their country Khalistan.

The Golden Temple attack is unacceptable to all civilized people. We must work to ensure that human rights are respected in India and that nothing like the Golden Temple attack, the Gujarat massacre, or the campaign of violence against Christians occurs there again. We can help bring that about by stopping our aid to India until it learns to observe basic human rights.

We can also help by putting this Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, as India promised the United Nations in 1948, in primarily Christian Nagaland, and wherever the people are seeking independence. This is the democratic way to settle the issue and India claims to be a democracy, so why are they afraid of holding a free and fair vote?

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has published a press release on the 400th anniversary of the Guni Granth Sahib and the 20th anniversary of the Golden Temple attack. It is very informative, so I would like to insert it into the RECORD at this time.

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU GRANTH SAHIB; 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE AT- TACK

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 10, 2004.—On June 5, Sikhs from around the East Coast will observe the 400th anniversary of the compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures. During India's June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, the Guru Granth Sahib was pierced by Indian Army bullets. The Sikh Nation will never forget the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib. Political power is essential for the survival of the Sikh Nation.

The Council of Khalistan, the organization leading the Sikh struggle for independence, will hold a demonstration Saturday, June 5, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. in front of the Indian Embassy at 21st and Massachusetts Ave. NW in Washington, D.C. It will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the attack on the Golden Temple and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras in Punjab, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, including such major Sikh leaders as Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and others who had taken refuge in the Darbar Sahib complex. The Indian army killed over 100 young religious students, ages 8 to 13. They were taken out into the courtyard and asked whether they supported Khalistan. When they answered "Bole So Nihal," they were shot.

"This attack, along with simultaneous attacks on 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, was the clearest sign that there is no place for Sikhs in India," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "It is a brutal, tyrannical, fundamentalist Hindu nationalist theocracy," he said. "Sant Bhindranwale said that if the Indian government invaded the Golden Temple, they would lay the foundation of Khalistan," Dr. Aulakh said. "He was right. The movement for Khalistan is strong in Punjab. Just last year, seminars were held on the subject. The fire of freedom burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs."

"The brutal attack on the Golden Temple and the 20-year wave of repression it set off must never be forgotten," Dr. Aulakh said. "Both the Congress Party and the Akalis are complicit in this criminal act against the Sikh Nation," he noted. . . . "India needs to be reminded that 20 years later, Sikhs have not forgiven nor forgotten this brutal atrocity. The younger generation must be reminded of this terrible atrocity."

In addition to the protest, there will be a seminar on Saturday, June 5 at George Washington University to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib. It will be sponsored by the International Conference on Sikh Studies along with Sikh Gurdwaras and institutions of North America.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a study by the Movement Against State Repression, 52,268 Sikhs are being held in illegal detention as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984!

Christian missionary Joseph Cooper was expelled from India after a mob of militant Hindu nationalists allied with the Rashtriya Swayamsewarak Sangh (RSS), a pro-Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the ruling BJP, beat him so severely he had to spend a week in the hospital. In 2002, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were murdered in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand aside, reminiscent of the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs. Indian newspapers reported that the government planned the Gujarat massacre in advance.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience. Sikhs ruled Punjab until 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership promising that Sikhs would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India. The Sikhs took their share with India on that promise. For that mistake, Sikhs are suffering now. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a plebiscite for the freedom of the Sikh Nation," he said. "India should also allow self-determination in Christian Nagaland, Kashmir, Assam, and the other nations fighting for freedom. This is the only way to bring lasting peace to South Asia."

SIKHS CALL FOR AN APOLOGY FROM SENATOR KERRY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2004 Democratic Presidential Candidate Senator JOHN KERRY referred to "Sikhs in India" as an example of terrorists. As you know, I have been a supporter of freedom for all people in South Asia, including the Sikhs.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan is well known among my

colleagues as an invaluable source of information on the situation in India and Kashmir. He and his organization are committed to freeing Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, by peaceful, democratic, and non-violent means. However, the Indian government portrays their actions as terrorism. I was saddened to see that Senator KERRY apparently agreed with this mischaracterization.

The Sikhs I have met are responsible citizens. They make important contributions to many facets of American life. Dalip Singh Saund, a Sikh, even proudly served in the Congress. Many Sikhs, including Dr. Aulakh, were quite offended by the statement made by Senator KERRY, and they have asked for an apology. I hope that the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts will do the right thing and retract his statement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the Council of Khalistan's letter to Senator KERRY placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, February 11, 2004.

Senator JOHN F. KERRY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: I am writing to you today on behalf of half a million Sikh Americans and over 25 million Sikhs worldwide to say that your remarks equating Sikhs with terrorists were offensive to the Sikh community. While giving a speech in Oklahoma, you referred to "the Sikhs in India" as an example of terrorism.

Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion, not a part of any other religion. Sikhs are distinctive by our religion, language, and culture from any other people on Earth.

Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849. Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians all participated in the government. Sikhs are a separate nation and people.

At the time of India's independence, three nations were to receive sovereign power: the Muslims, who got Pakistan, the Hindus, who got India, and the Sikhs. Sikhs took their share with India on the solemn promise that Sikhs would enjoy "the glow of freedom" in Punjab and no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without our consent. Instead, almost as soon as the ink was dry on India's independence, Nehru sent out a directive describing Sikhs as "a criminal class" and ordering police to take extraordinary measures against us.

Since June 1984, India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and published in the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. A report from the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Indian forces carried out the March 2000 massacre in the village of Chithisinghpura, according to two independent investigations. Indian forces were caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Sikh Gurdwara and Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir. Sikh and Muslim villagers joined hands to stop them.

The book *Soft Target*, written by two Canadian journalists, Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, shows conclusively that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people, to blame it on the Sikhs and have an excuse for more repression.

Other minorities such as Christians and Muslims, among others, have also felt the lash of Indian repression. Over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the terrorist Indian regime. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, churches have been burned, schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, all with impunity. A mob of militant Hindus affiliated with the parent organization of the ruling BJP murdered missionary Graham Staines and his two sons by burning them to death while they slept in their jeep, all the while chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. India threw missionary Joseph Cooper from Pennsylvania out of the country after he was beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in the hospital. A Christian religious festival on the theme "Jesus is the answer" was broken up by police gunfire.

Almost two years ago, Muslims were massacred in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand by and do nothing, according to Indian newspaper reports. One newspaper quoted a policeman as saying that the Indian government planned the massacre in advance. This is an eerie parallel to the 1984 massacre of Sikhs in Delhi, in which police were locked in their barracks while the state-run radio and television called for more Sikh blood.

An Indian Cabinet minister was quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindu. This kind of religious fanaticism as state policy is dangerous and anti-democratic. We would not want it in America; why should we support it in India?

On October 7, 1987, Sikhs declared their independence from India, naming their new country Khalistan. We are committed to liberating Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. History shows that multinational states such as Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, and India are doomed to fall apart. We intend to see that this happens peacefully, in the manner of Czechoslovakia, not violently like Yugoslavia. Yet simply supporting a sovereign, independent Khalistan is what India calls terrorism.

The 20,000 Sikhs who were murdered in the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple and 37 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab were not terrorists. They were seeking refuge from the Indian government's tyranny. Yet the Indian government insists on describing them as "terrorists," as if repeating it often enough will make it true.

Senator Kerry, we respectfully request that you apologize to the Sikh Nation and the Sikh community in the United States for your remark. I urge you to support measures to bring freedom to all the people of the subcontinent. Sikhs share the commitment to freedom you showed when you fought in Vietnam and in your service in public office. There was even a Sikh member of Congress in the late 1950s, Dalip Singh Saund of California. We look forward to working with you in the future to bring the blessings of liberty to everyone in the subcontinent.

If you would like any further information or would like to meet about these issues, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President.

ACTION NEEDED ON ANIMAL ID SYSTEM

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the March 3, 2004, *Lincoln Journal Star*. The editorial emphasizes the need to develop an animal identification system in an expeditious manner. Clearly, an effective system to track livestock would benefit producers as well as consumers. It is time for action.

[From the *Lincoln Journal Star*, Mar. 3, 2004]

QUICK ACTION NEEDED ON LIVESTOCK IDS

A continued sense of urgency is needed in the effort to establish an animal identification system to improve food safety.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has been working to develop a program for several years, but it's still far from implementation.

Meanwhile, the ability of the livestock industry to track sick animals is in woeful condition.

The USDA never did track down all the cattle in the herd in Washington state where a cow with mad cow disease was detected. Officials finally gave up and admitted they could not find 11 cows.

With technology that's available today, that's inexcusable.

A good starting place would be the bill introduced by Sen. Chuck Hagel, which would give U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman authority to implement the system the department has been working on for the past several years.

The program was designed to give inspectors the ability to identify all the farms and other animals that had contact with a diseased animal within 48 hours.

Compare that with the frustrating weeks that inspectors spent on the recent case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Tests confirmed the result on Dec. 23 last year. The investigation was not closed until Feb. 9.

The USDA is recommending the use of radio frequency identification devices, but other approaches, such as implantable microchips and retinal scanning, are also possible.

The device is a tag that is stapled to the base of the animal's ear. Each tag has a unique numerical code. The tag would be scanned at each stage of the production chain for tracking purposes. Information on the devices would be stored in a national database.

The program deserves industry support for reasons that should be obvious. The discovery of single case of mad cow cost the industry an estimated \$4 billion in lost sales, according to agricultural economists.

It won't be cheap to establish the program. Officials estimate the costs could run around \$100 million a year. Although a portion of the cost ultimately will be borne by the industry and passed along to consumers, tax support would be appropriate during the transition phase to the new system.

The good news is that some producers are already using the radio frequency identification tags.

The USDA currently plans to phase in the program this summer and begin issuing animal identification tags next year. First priority would be given to tracking beef and dairy cattle.

Progress on that timetable should not be allowed to slip. The livestock industry needs prompt action to protect consumer safety.

FREEDOM FOR PABLO PACHECO AVILA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Pablo Pacheco Avila, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pacheco Avila works as an independent journalist with the agency Avileña Cooperative of Independent Journalists, because he believes it is his obligation to expose the factual realities of totalitarian Cuba.

Due to Mr. Pacheco Avila's desire to communicate the truth about the nightmarish reality of Castro's repressive regime, he has been constantly harassed by the dictator's thugs. According to Amnesty International, in November 2002, Mr. Pacheco Avila was detained by Castro's agents of repression for six hours after attempting to video two totalitarian police officers mistreating two women. In March 2002, he was detained for providing news coverage on a peaceful pro-democracy meeting.

Unfortunately, under the tyrannical dictatorship, freedom is banned and repression is law. Mr. Pacheco Avila was arrested in Castro's brutal March 2003 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. After a summary, sham trial he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pacheco Avila is a great example how the dictator torments and commits aggression against those who advocate for truth and democracy. Today marks the one year anniversary of Castro's infamous March 2003 crackdown on Cuba's prodemocracy activists. Amnesty International recognizes 75 prisoners of conscience from this condemnable March 2003 crackdown. Currently thousands of freedom-loving Cubans languish in Castro's totalitarian gulags because they refuse to accept the nightmarish oppression in Cuba. Today, I extend my solidarity to Mr. Pacheco Avila and the thousands of Cuban men and women who are shackled and suffering because they desire to see freedom reign in Cuba.

Mr. Pacheco Avila suffers today in an inhumane dungeon because he believes in writing and reporting the truth. My colleagues, on the one year anniversary of the brutal, March 2003 crackdown on pro-democracy activists in totalitarian Cuba, we must demand the immediate release of Pablo Pacheco Avila and every prisoner of conscience suffering in the gulags of totalitarian Cuba.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RANDY AND CLARICY RUSK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Randy and Claricy Rusk for the contributions they have made to their community and the State of Colorado. Recently, Randy and Claricy Rusk were presented the prestigious Leopold

Conservation Award for their land conservation efforts. It is with great satisfaction that I congratulate Randy and Claricy for their well-deserved award, and thank them for their significant contributions to Custer County and the State of Colorado.

For five generations, the Rusk Hereford Ranch has sought out progressive conservation techniques in range management. Their efforts include improved range and riparian management, wildlife habitat enhancement, resource management planning, and creating conservation easements to prevent second home development. The Leopold Conservation Award is named after famed conservationist Aldo Leopold, and includes a \$10,000 cash prize and a crystal statute of Aldo Leopold on horseback.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Rusks have a legacy of strong commitment to the ranching community in Custer County and the State of Colorado. Randy and Claricy's efforts to keep this great tradition of conservation vibrant is worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. It is my privilege to extend to Randy and Claricy my sincere congratulations on receiving the Leopold Conservation Award, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY L. SCIORTINO, IRA D. CALVERT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona, and surrounding communities, has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Cathy Sciortino is one of these individuals. On March 27, 2004, Cathy will be honored at the annual YMCA Ira D. "Cal" Calvert Distinguished Service Awards Dinner.

Cathy was born in Akron, Ohio where she attended school and graduated from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. After graduation, she worked for May Co. Corp. in Youngstown, Ohio for eleven years as a buyer of women's ready to wear clothing. In 1985, Cathy and her husband moved to Yorba Linda, California and a year later they bought a house in Corona.

After the birth of her first child, Carly, Cathy became a stay at home mom and was very active in the school system. She joined the PTA and served on the board for 14 years. In 1995, Cathy was elected to the Corona-Norco Unified School Board and served as the president in 1997-1998 and 2002-2003. She also served as the delegate for the California School Board Association Assembly and as the Corona-Norco School Board Representative. She has also served as a chairmember on the Corona Regional Medical Center Governing Board; was a founding member of the Unity Advisory Board; the Centennial High School PTSA President; board member of the Choices for Success advisory board; and board member of the ADV advisory board.

Cathy has been the recipient of the PTA-Honorary Service Award and the Soroptimist Woman of Distinction Award for Education.

Cathy has set a standard of excellence and commitment in his work in the community. Her tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. Her involvement in the community makes me proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives the Ira D. Calvert Distinguished Service Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 58, 59, and 60. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 58 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 551, Thanking C-SPAN for its service to the House of Representatives; rollcall vote 59 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3733, the Myron V. George Post Office Designation; and rollcall vote 60 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 433, Honoring the life and legacy of Luis A. Ferré.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 58, 59, and 60.

THE HELPING THE PEOPLE OF HAITI ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Helping the People of Haiti Act, a bill to renew United States financial assistance to Haiti and to urge the international community to support Haiti's economic recovery.

As the international community intervenes to restore peace in Haiti, I encourage all of my colleagues to concern yourselves with the suffering of its people. The health and welfare of millions of Haitians and the stability of a region close to our shores will only get worse if we do not seize the opportunity to act responsibly now.

My bill, the Helping the People of Haiti Act, requires the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the U.S. Executive Director at the Inter-American Development Bank to release the loans already approved for Haiti. These funds, amounting to \$146 million, provide for health, education, water, sanitation, and transportation developments that are critical to stabilizing Haiti and improving the plight of its people. This bill also requires the Secretary of State to encourage foreign governments to strengthen their financial support and help with Haiti's economic development.

For too long, the United States and the international community did not intervene to

alleviate the situation in Haiti, conditioning financial assistance on the strengthening of democratic institutions, free and fair elections, and transparent and accountable government. But it is reasonable to assume that these requirements for financial aid will now be met, given the international community's intimate involvement in Haiti's political affairs for the near future.

Let us work to alleviate all of Haiti's problems—environmental degradation, extreme poverty, starvation, and social chaos—not just the political crisis. This is critical to stabilizing the country, preventing a mass exodus of refugees, and ensuring that future political crises will be weathered not by street violence but by the rule of law and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, where the United Nations once called Haiti a "silent emergency," the plight of this country screams out for our assistance. We have a moral imperative to uphold democracy in Haiti, and to ensure that Haiti's people do not starve, that the environment is not obliterated, and that instead Haiti will become a nation of stability and opportunity. Haiti is a success story waiting to happen.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA ERICKSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Virginia Erickson for her selfless dedication to the community of New Castle, Colorado, and congratulate her on being recognized by the Garfield County Commissioners and the Glenwood Springs Post Independent as their 2003 Countywide Humanitarian of the Year. Virginia received this honor in recognition of her outstanding work with numerous civic organizations. It is an honor to pay tribute to Virginia for her well-deserved award, and her ongoing efforts to better her community.

As an active member of her community, Virginia dedicates her time to a vast array of civic functions. She serves as an emergency medical technician for the New Castle Volunteer Ambulance Service and as a member of the New Castle Historical Museum. An active advocate for New Castle seniors, Virginia also serves as a New Castle Councilwoman. Her enthusiasm for taking part in these organizations comes from the joy she receives in giving back to the community she loves.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Virginia before this body of Congress and this nation for her dedication and commitment to the New Castle, Colorado community. She has done much to improve her community, and I congratulate her on her recent honor as the 2003 Countywide Humanitarian of the Year. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE KEITH, IRA D. CALVERT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona, and surrounding communities, has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Wayne Keith is one of these individuals. On March 27, 2004, Wayne will be honored at the annual YMCA Ira D. "Cal" Calvert Distinguished Service Awards Dinner.

Wayne has been an active member of the community since he moved here in 1969. He began work as the general manager of ALCOA's Premium Casting Division in Corona. There is hardly an organization that hasn't benefited from his participation. Wayne has served as President of the Corona Rotary Club, the Western Municipal Water District and the Navy League. He has been on the Board of Directors of United Way, Corona Chamber of Commerce, Corona Community Hospital Foundation, UCR Foundation, Good Samaritan Boys Club and California Manufacturers Association.

A longtime member of the First Congregational Church, he has held a number of church positions from choir member to vice president of the board of directors. Wayne has also donated countless hours to Peppermint Ridge, serving three terms on its board of directors and chairing several committees. He also directed renovations of the Woman's Improvement Club clubhouse, and chaired fundraising activities for the Corona-Norco Family YMCA.

Wayne began his career in 1945 with ALCOA after receiving his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He stayed with ALCOA over 40 years. During his career he was active in professional associations, has written on the subject of aluminum, and is co-holder of a patent for stair treads.

For all his volunteer efforts, Wayne has been recognized with several awards. In 1975, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce; received the Chamber's "George" Award; was chosen, along with his wife Evie, Corona Community Hospital Volunteers of the Year; and was recipient of the Golden Hinge Award—only the second one given—by Peppermint Ridge.

Wayne has set a standard of excellence and commitment in his work in the community. His tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. His involvement in the community makes me proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he receives the "Ira D. Calvert Distinguished Service Award."

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce companion legislation to S. 685, a bill sponsored by Senator JEFF BINGAMAN (D-NM) and Senator DANIEL AKAKA (D-IL) to assist low-income taxpayers in preparing and filing their tax returns and to protect taxpayers from unscrupulous refund anticipation loan providers. In particular, the provisions of this legislation will benefit taxpayers eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) who must fill out dauntingly complex forms—the EITC instructions run 53 pages alone—and, because of the dearth of free tax preparation services to help navigate the process, are heavy users of commercial tax preparers.

The problems addressed by the Low-Income Taxpayer Protection Act of 2004 have been ignored for too long. The National Taxpayer Advocate's FY2002 Annual Report to Congress notes that in 2000, only 1 percent of filers with incomes below the EITC income limit received free tax preparation assistance from either the IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers or volunteer sites affiliated with the IRS. The remaining low-income filers who had their forms filed for them used a commercial preparer. While many commercial preparers provide a very valuable, necessary service, the work of these men and women is too often overshadowed by those who peddle refund anticipation loans (RALs)—usurious short-term loans secured by the taxpayer's tax refund, including the EITC. In fact, it is estimated that 53 percent of EITC recipients who went to a paid tax preparer ended up with a RAL.

According to a report prepared by the Consumer Federation of America and the National Consumer Law Center and entitled "All Drain, No Gain," refund anticipation loan fees cost consumers about \$1.14 billion in 2002, up almost \$200 million from the year before. Additional fees for electronic filing, "document preparation," and "applications" added another \$406 million to the total. Our constituents who can afford it the least are suffering a \$1.5 billion drain on their tax refunds.

Mr. Speaker, let me take a moment to break down these estimates from the cumulative to the individual using an analysis found in "All Drain, No Gain." Based upon the prices for RALs in 2004, a consumer might pay the following in order to get a \$2,100 RAL—the average refund—from a commercial tax preparation chain this year: (1) A loan fee of \$99.95, which includes a \$24.95 fee supposedly for the "dummy" bank account used to receive the consumer's tax refund from the IRS to repay the RAL; and (2) a system administration fee that averages \$32 per loan. Combine that with tax preparation fees, which average about \$120, and the total is about \$250. The effective APR on this RAL would be 182 percent.

The Office of the Taxpayer Advocate acknowledges that there are several factors that drive low-income taxpayers to pay for tax preparation, including: (1) Inconvenient location or hours of VITA sites; (2) lack of bank accounts for direct deposit of refunds; (3)

need or desire for immediate cash; and (4) inability to prepare one's own taxes due to limited language, literacy, or computer skills.

This bill takes a two-pronged approach aimed at curtailing the drain on the EITC program by first regulating income tax preparers and refund anticipation loan providers and, secondly, creating IRS-administered grant programs for free tax preparation for low-income taxpayers and to help individuals establish a bank account for the first time.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID DAVIS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to photographer David Davis and the outstanding work he has done to promote our Native American culture in Colorado. David is constantly challenging himself as an artist, and his recent project focusing on Native Americans has garnered national attention. While I would like to congratulate David on his recent accomplishment, I would also like to recognize his selflessness in donating proceeds of the project to Native Americans.

David first became interested in the Native American culture in 1993, when he did a photo shoot of a Native American wedding dress for an advertisement. Since then, he has traveled around southwestern Colorado and the neighboring states taking photographs of Native Americans against the breathtaking backgrounds of the Colorado Plateau. David made a DVD of his photographs entitled "Native Faces—Desert Light," and his work on this project will be shown at a Native American film festival in Tuba City, Arizona. Some of the proceeds from the project have been donated to endeavors encouraging Native Americans to take up photography, and his work is sold at stores on reservations.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring the selfless work of David Davis to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. He has helped to promote this historically rich culture, and has brought to light the majesty of this land and its native peoples. I wish David all the best with this project and his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, consider this scenario: "The formation of a free and democratic society is being hampered by internal and external strife. The drafting of a constitution encounters opposition and various parties within the country are struggling for power. The economy is underdeveloped and there is little order. The people are unsure of their future and this promise of democracy. It would take decades for this democracy to truly flourish and become the republic that it is today."

That's the history of America, Mr. Speaker. The people of Iraq, a year after their liberation, are facing many of the same obstacles of early Americans. However, they have accomplished more in one year than the United States accomplished in a decade—they have drafted a working constitution that guarantees freedom of religion and worship, freedom of expression, freedom to peacefully assemble and demonstrate, freedom to organize political parties, freedom to join unions and the right to equal treatment under the law. This progress is unprecedented.

365 days ago, our troops, along with other coalition forces, entered the country of Iraq to liberate a badly battered and abused population. Our troops performed with determination and tenacity: they were given their mission and performed brilliantly. Now, because of their accomplishment, 24 million people live in a country that has voiced its dedication to freedom and democracy. Unfortunately, there are those in this country that lack the same resolve to freedom and democracy. At the first sign of opposition and test of honor they run and hide behind words such as "quagmire." This wavering support is disheartening at best and it undermines the incredible accomplishments of our troops, especially those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. It also undermines the determination of the Iraqi people to establish a democracy—deeming them incapable and incompetent.

Even as we speak here today, progress is being made in Iraq. As chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee I've visited Iraq and witnessed first-hand their accomplishments. With our help, they have surpassed prewar peak electrical generation levels and are on track to be generating at 140 percent over their prewar level by June. Water facilities are currently operating at 65 percent of prewar levels, mostly due to years of neglect, electricity shortages and post-war looting of plant and emergency generators. Current projects include the rehabilitation of 15 water treatment facilities and portions of the Sweet Water Canal to Basrah. These projects will benefit over 14.5 million Iraqis and provide a future for water reliability.

One year ago this country, along with our allies, made the decision to topple a tyrannical regime, liberate a people, and help build a democracy in the heart of a terrorist breeding ground. Our troops have done, and continue to do, their part. It is time for all leaders in America to do their part: we must stand by the Iraqi people and government as they begin their long and challenging journey towards freedom. Our own past demonstrates that democracy is messy; at times there will be setbacks and frustrations, but in the end, freedom is worth every sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOAN BOWMAN, MAYOR OF LENEXA, KS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday of this week, I attended the funeral of an outstanding public servant who was taken from us too soon. Former Lenexa, KS, Mayor Joan

Bowman died on March 11 after 26 years of dedicated public service to the community that is my home.

Joan Bowman died after a long battle with cancer. This longtime community leader, volunteer and advocate for education and individuals with disabilities was elected Lenexa mayor in 1995 and 1999. She was first elected to the Lenexa City Council in 1987, the same year she was inducted into the Lenexa Volunteer Hall of Fame. Her career in public office began in 1978 as a member of the Shawnee Mission West High School Advisory Board. In 1981, she began the first of two terms on the Shawnee Mission Board of Education, where she served as board president for 2 years. In her honor, flags at Lenexa city hall were flown at half staff.

Last month, the people of Lenexa dedicated to former Mayor Bowman a 7-foot, bronze statue of Na Nex Se, the Shawnee Native American woman after whom Lenexa was named. Dedicated to Bowman for her leadership and service to our community, the statue was funded with city resources and through a local letter writing campaign, which ultimately raised \$8,000 more than was needed. I hope that Joan Bowman's legacy, as embodied in the Na Nex Se statue, will inspire future generations of Lenexans to make significant contributions to our community. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD for your review a copy of the Kansas City Star's obituary regarding this remarkable, dedicated public servant.

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 12, 2004]

FORMER LENEXA MAYOR DIES

(By Eugene Scott)

Former Lenexa Mayor Joan Bowman, who was an advocate for education and persons with disabilities in her 26 years of public service, died Thursday after battling cancer. She was 63.

Bowman was respected as a volunteer and an officeholder, and news of her battle with cancer had been widespread in recent years.

In February, city officials dedicated a statue of Na Nex Se, the Shawnee American Indian woman after whom Lenexa was named, to Bowman in honor of her service and leadership.

Bowman was elected mayor twice, in 1995 and 1999. She was elected to the city council in 1987, the same year she was inducted into the Lenexa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Current Lenexa Mayor Mike Boehm said Bowman's desire to implement projects in Lenexa's best interest greatly enhanced the city.

"Her biggest impact on Lenexa was that she took a reasonable approach. Joan would study every issue brought before her, and give it the necessary attention," he said.

Leawood Mayor Peggy Dunn worked with Bowman on the Johnson County/Wyandotte County Council of Mayors and developed a personal friendship.

"She was an outstanding leader, and a wonderful mentor to those of us who knew her," she said. "She was always ready to listen, and to give . . . wise counsel."

While Bowman formed friendships with other political leaders, Dunn said her ability to separate professional and personal relationships made her an effective leader.

"Her ability to see the big picture in every situation, to rise above personal feelings and do what was really the best thing for the greater good encouraged others to do so as well," Dunn said.

Rich Becker, Lenexa's mayor when Bowman was elected to the city council, admired her strong work ethic. "She was the toughest woman I ever met in my life," he said.

"She was very meticulous, and she wanted to make sure that all the i's were dotted and all the t's were crossed."

While demanding, Bowman was humble, Becker said, and realized that being a team player would lead to success for everyone involved.

"She liked to involve as many people as she could in making decisions. She was involved in so many things, and very easy to work with. She was the kind of person you look up to and say 'nice job,'" he said.

Her career in public office began in 1978 as a member of the Shawnee Mission West Advisory Board. In 1981, she served the first of two terms on the Shawnee Mission Board of Education. She was board president for two years.

Julie Miller, a Shawnee Mission school board member for 16 years, met Bowman when the two served on the district's advisory boards. She remembers Bowman being consistently well-informed and dependable. "She was a brilliant person. You could always count on Joan," she said.

Before beginning her career in public service, Bowman taught math at junior high schools in the Shawnee Mission district. She graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1962.

David Watkins, Lenexa's city administrator for 19 years before leaving to accept a position as city administrator in Auburn, Ala., said Bowman's experience in education allowed her to communicate effectively with community members while listening to their concerns:

"She could take complex issues like the watershed program, and take all that technical info and reformat it to citizen groups in a manner that they can understand."

She was on the Lenexa Convention and Visitors Bureau board, the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, and was a member of the Lenexa Historical Society.

Council member Diane Linver said that despite Bowman's numerous offices and accolades, she would want to be remembered as a person who cared about her family and her community.

"She was a wonderful wife, a wonderful mother and a wonderful friend," she said.

Survivors include her husband, Ed, and two sons.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAYOR VAN WILLIS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Mancos, Colorado, Mayor Van Willis who passed away recently at the age of eighty-seven. Van was a true American patriot, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his Colorado community. In his years spent in public service, Van embodied the ideals of integrity and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from our public servants. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Van lived an immensely rich and full life, always holding firm to his beliefs in serving his community and country. He spent ten years serving his nation in the Army, earning a reputation as a solid and dependable leader.

After moving to Bayfield in 1947, he embraced the pioneering spirit of Colorado, running a ranch there, and later in Mancos. Van dedicated his efforts towards the betterment of his Mancos community, spending twelve years as the mayor of Mancos, serving on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, and serving as president of the Mancos Community Development. He also held a post command in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was a member of the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Mayor Willis' passing, but can be comforted in knowing he helped make Mancos a better place for future generations. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his sister Margaret, his children, Linda and Dean; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mayor Willis' selfless dedication to Mancos, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family, community and nation.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR RANDOLPH L. BRAHAM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a brilliant and remarkable scholar, Professor Randolph L. Braham. Dr. Braham is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science from the City College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he is also Director of the Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies. He is a distinguished member of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Professor Braham is an outstanding scholar and chronicler of the Hungarian Holocaust whose sixtieth anniversary we are commemorating this week.

His two-volume work, *The Politics of Genocide: The Holocaust in Hungary*, won the Jewish National Book award in 1981, and earned him citations in the New York State Assembly. In 1995, he was awarded the Order of Merit Officer's Cross of the Hungarian Republic.

Born in Romania in 1922, Professor Braham received a traditional Jewish upbringing in Dej, a small town in Transylvania. His parents and many relatives perished in the Holocaust. He spent 1943-45 in a forced labor battalion with the Hungarian and German armies in Ukraine. Later, he was captured and incarcerated in the gulag where he experienced the horrors of Soviet labor camps.

After the war, Professor Braham came to the United States on a Hillel Fellowship at the Graduate Faculty of the New School University and encountered many of the émigré luminaries, including Frieda Wunderlich, Arnold Brecht, Erich Hula, and Boris Mirkineguetzevitch.

Professor Braham has spent over forty years as a professor at the City College of New York. He is the author or co-editor of forty-two books on the Holocaust in central and eastern Europe including his all important

documentation *The Nazis' Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary*. Professor Braham has made a most significant contribution to the scientific historiography of the Holocaust in general and the tragedy of Hungarian Jewry in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Dr. Randolph Braham for his remarkable achievements and scholarly contributions in documenting the persecution of Jews in Europe, particularly his extensive history of the Hungarian Holocaust. The life's work of Dr. Randolph Braham is a major contribution to the understanding of the history of the twentieth century, and therefore it deserves to be recognized and honored by the Congress of the United States.

As George Santayana reminded us, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Dr. Braham's important legacy should help all future generations to learn the dark lessons of the past and thus enable them in the future to create societies based on justice and on values that will always include respect for the rights of the minorities and human rights in general.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH LEGISLATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution designating a Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the contributions of Caribbean-Americans from the inception of our country to the present.

Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michel Basquiat, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Sidney Ponson, Maryse Condé, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Celia Cruz, Mervyn Dymally and Shirley Chisholm are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who helped shape American government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture.

Many of us in Congress focus on "hot spots" in the Caribbean—Cuba and Haiti—and forget that we have many constituents with roots from Suriname to the Bahamas and from Belize to Barbados.

The recent revitalization of a bi-partisan Congressional Caribbean Caucus forced many of us to re-evaluate the policy between CARICOM and the United States, and to discuss proposed and pending U.S. legislation that will have a direct impact on bilateral relations.

It is also important that we remember that our policies in the Caribbean affect the relatives of our constituents. I wrote this resolution to remind the American public that there are Caribbean-Americans who reside in every state of the union, and make sure that are recognized and celebrated.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community, and create a month designated to annually acknowledge their service to our society.

HONORING MR. LENNY
MARTINELLI OF BOULDER, COLO-
RADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lenny Martinelli of Boulder, Colorado for his exemplary service to the Colorado community.

In 1987, two cities on opposite sides of the world, in countries on opposite sides of the political spectrum, collaborated to bring their respective traditions, culture, and history to one another in a peaceful manner. During a time of great conflict and tension, the cities of Boulder, Colorado, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, united as the Sister Cities. Over the next three years, dozens of Tajikistani painters, woodcarvers, and ceramicists worked on completing Dushanbe's gift to Boulder, the Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse. The result was a magnificent structure and a wonderful restaurant that offers exquisite cuisine and atmosphere.

The success and beauty of the Teahouse would not have been possible without the leadership and management of Lenny Martinelli. For six years, Lenny has provided the direction, character, and culinary expertise for one of Colorado's most impressive restaurants. As proprietor of the Teahouse, Lenny has been responsible for maintaining the impressive reputation and quality of the Soviet Union's largest gift to the United States.

But Mr. Martinelli's dedication to the Sister Cities reaches beyond the walls of his restaurant. Every year he organizes a community cultural celebration on the Persian New Year of Navrus. He holds annual fundraisers to help finance Dushanbe's Cyber-Cafe, which is Boulder's gift to its sister city. A very positive and talented man, Lenny also is a constant advocate for worldwide unity and global awareness.

Mr. Speaker, the Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse is a world-class facility. Its lovely architecture and artwork make it the largest example of ancient Persian art in the country. Its food is an awesome assimilation of the greatest tastes from across the East. As the name indicates, it has one of the most impressive collections of teas in the world. Adding to the overall excellence of the Teahouse is Mr. Martinelli's great proprietorship which has kept the Teahouse as one of the premiere dining facilities in the Rocky Mountain region.

Through his role in the Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse, Lenny Martinelli has demonstrated the greatest attributes of a global community. I urge my colleague to join me today in honoring him for his accomplishments.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO NICK
ALCORTA**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life

and memory of Nick Alcorta. Nick touched the lives of many in his Basalt, Colorado community, dedicating his time and efforts to teaching the sport of baseball to youths. His tragic death at age thirty-nine is a loss to us all, and as the Basalt community gathers to celebrate the life of such an exceptional person, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a beloved Coloradan.

Nick loved teaching and mentoring children, especially his two boys Dominick and Derek. He was involved in numerous youth sports programs, serving as the recreation director for Basalt from 1997 through 2002, serving as head coach of the Basalt High baseball team, and as assistant coach of the Basalt High girls basketball program. When the town of Basalt was forced to lay off Nick due to a tight budget, Nick volunteered his time for the kids who meant so much to him while their parents rallied at Town Hall to support the man who meant so much to their children.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Nick Alcorta's passing, but can be comforted in knowing he made a lasting impact as a superb role model for the youth in Basalt. I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. My thoughts are with Nick's wife Debbie, his two children, and the entire Basalt community during this difficult time of bereavement.

EL SALVADOR

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the result of the election in Spain was a major setback in the War on Terror and is a setback in our relationship with the people of Spain. There is another election, which will be taking place shortly in this our hemisphere, in El Salvador. The communist/FMLN political party derives from the communist guerillas who waged war for years to establish a communist dictatorship in El Salvador. They could win this election in part because of reported covert assistance they are receiving from foreign communists and pro-Castro regimes.

If the communist/FMLN presidential candidate wins, the great spirit of cooperation we have had with El Salvador would be put in jeopardy. The FMLN has promised to immediately open full diplomatic relations with communist Cuba, which is a state sponsor of terrorism. They will do that at the expense of El Salvador's relationship with the United States.

If a new communist/FMLN government in El Salvador acts as it promises to do it could well cause the United States to reconsider its grant of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to about 400,000 Salvadorans who live there. These citizens of El Salvador living in the U.S. also send about two billion dollars to their home country each year. A hostile communist/FMLN regime in El Salvador would likely lead the United States to reconsider our policies which permit the sending of such a bounty to El Salvador.

It is important for the people of El Salvador to understand that their decision at the polls will have consequences for their future relations with the United States. A victory for the communist/FMLN will most likely open a regrettable gulf between our countries after years of cooperation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, due to an emergency, I was not present for Rollcall votes Nos. 48 and 49. Had I been present, on Rollcall vote No. 48, I would have voted "aye"; on Rollcall vote No. 49, I would have voted "aye."

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOUTH-
WESTERN BEVERAGE COMPANY**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the Southwestern Beverage Company's impressive tradition of business excellence and philanthropy in Durango, Colorado. Recently, the Durango Chamber of Commerce recognized the company with the Spirit of Durango award for its history of service to the community. It is with great pride that I congratulate Southwestern Beverage for its well-deserved award, and thank them for their significant contributions to their community.

The Southwestern Beverage legacy began when Arthur Welsh founded the company in 1963. From the beginning, the Welsh family was committed not only to distributing beverages across Southwest Colorado, but also to contributing profits to scholarship and recreation events in the Durango community. The company has sponsored numerous local events, including the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic and the Durango Grand Prix. The Welsh family has always believed that as their business grew, so should their civic responsibility to the community.

Mr. Speaker, the drive the Southwestern Beverage Company and Welsh family have shown in their business and charitable activities have made them true civic leaders in their community. For over forty years, they have left an indelible mark of excellence on the Durango community and the State of Colorado. It is my privilege to pay tribute to the company before this body of Congress and this nation today and congratulate them on receiving the Spirit of Durango award.